

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of September 7, 2005 has been reviewed and the comments therein were carefully considered. Claims 1 – 95 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 9-16, 29-46, 51-59 and 84-85 stand rejected. Claims 5-8, 17-28, 47-50 and 60-83 are objected to. Through this Response and Amendment, claims 1, 17, 20, 23, 26, 43, 60, 63, 66, 69, 72, 75 – 76, 78 and 81 have been amended and claims 5 – 16, 29 – 40, 47 – 59, and 86 – 95 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-8, 17-28, 47-50 and 60-83 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Through this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Dependent claims 2 – 4 are also allowable based upon ultimately depending from claim 1. Further, in view of the amendment to claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 41 and 42 are allowable over the cited art. Applicants have also amended claims 17 to depend from claim 1, which now incorporates the subject matter of claim 5. Further, claims 20, 23, and 36 have been amended to depend from claims 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

Claim 43 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim of 47. Dependent claims 44 – 46 are also allowable as they ultimately depend from claim 43. Accordingly, claims 60, 63, 66, and 69 are amended to depend from claims 43, 44, 45, and 46 respectively. In view of the amendment to claim 43, Applicants also submit that claims 84 and 85 are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 72 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 56 and depend from claim 43. Claim 75 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 57 and depend from claim 44. Claim 76 has been amended to properly depend from claim 75. Claim 78 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of 58 and properly depend from claim 45.

In view of Applicants' amendment, Applicants submit that claims 1 – 4, 17 – 28, 41 – 46, and 60 – 85 are allowable over the cited art of record, and thereby respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Rejection Under 35 USC §101

Claims 94 – 95 are rejected under 35 USC §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Through this Response and Amendment, the Applicants have cancelled claims 94 – 95 to expedite allowance of subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable over the art of record. The Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, however, retain the right to prosecute the subject matter of claims 94 – 95 in a related application.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-4, 9-16, 29-46, 51-59 and 84-95 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Renaud et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,958,051, in view of Kiessling et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,901,251.

In view of Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 17, 20, 23, 26, 43, 60, 66, 69, 72, 75 – 76, 78 and 81 places the rejected claims in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection, however, retain the right to prosecute the subject matter of claims 1-4, 9-16, 29-46, 51-59 and 86-95 in a related application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 1, 2006

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